

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the due consideration given the application. Claims 1-92 and 94 are pending in the application. No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this response.

The Claims of the invention have been restricted into the following groups:

Group I, claims 2-12, drawn to an apparatus with contact means specifics;

Group II, claims 14-19, drawn to an apparatus with means for determining calibration details;

Group III, claims 20-32 and 39, drawn to a apparatus with adapter element details; and

Group IV, claims 40 and 41, drawn to an apparatus with means to close a groove.

The Official Action acknowledges that claims 1 and 13 link groups I-III and IV, and that the groups will be rejoined upon indication of allowable subject matter of the linking claims.

Group I, claims 2-12 is elected with traverse.

As is set forth in MPEP 803, there are two criteria for a proper requirement for restriction between patentably distinct inventions:

(A) The inventions must be independent or distinct as claimed; ***and***

(B) There would be a serious burden on the examiner if restriction is not required.

In this case the technologies of the technologies of the apparatus embodied in Groups I-IV are so intimately interrelated that no undue burden is placed upon the Examiner to examine all the groups on the merits.

It is particularly noted that the fixed block of the contact means of Group I and the means for connecting the adapter to the block of Group III are two components that are so interconnected that they are aspects of a single embodiment that should be examined together.

It is also noted that the Official Action assert that Groups I-IV do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT rule 13.2, they lack the same of corresponding special technical features, stating: "an apparatus with contact means comprising a fixed block or a mobile block is not the same as or equivalent to an apparatus with means for determining calibration details which is not the same as or equivalent to an apparatus with adapter element details which is not the same as or equivalent to an apparatus with means to close a groove."

By this, the Office has already performed consideration and/or search. There is thus clearly no additional undue burden to continue to examine the entire present invention on the merits.

Rejoinder of Groups I-IV is accordingly respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Early and favorable consideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future submissions, to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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